

Let's Talk About the Humanities



Zeb Tortorici is an associate professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at New York University. His book, *Sins against Nature: Sex and Archives in Colonial New Spain* (2018), received the John Boswell Award among other prizes. His current research is supported by a Mellon New Directions Fellowship.

Erotic Archival Entanglements: Memory Projects of the “Obscene” in Greater Mexico

March 15, 2023 at 1:00 PM ET

with Zeb Tortorici
New York University

This talk theorizes the notion of erotic archival entanglements in Greater Mexico by tracing connections between categories of the “obscene” and the “pornographic” across time, from the 18th century to the present. Focusing first on the now-absent confiscated artifacts from the archives of the late colonial Mexican Inquisition—explicit drawings, prints, statues, and clocks—the talk will examine how such objects entered and exited multiple hands, collections, and (temporary) resting places. Additionally, the talk will explore how such movements resonate with how vintage historical erotica today travels among flea markets, bookshops, private collections, museums, and historical archives with a focus on a Mexico City-based grassroots archival initiative.

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